



OXTALES

First published 1980

Club Nets on VK2RPM
146.700MHz
(CTCSS 91.5Hz)
Sundays 0900
Thursdays 1930

Newsletter of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc.,

PO Box 712 Port Macquarie 2444

Club email address: vk2bor@orarc.org also on Facebook as Oxley

Region Amateur Radio Club

Club Website: <http://www.orarc.org>



ORARC's fifty Second Anniversary Year

July 2023

PRESIDENT: Henry Lundell VK2ZHE 6582 0534
VICE PRES: Paul Colledge VK2ICQ 6580 9912
TREASURER: Dennis Meade VK2DAM 6582 2998
SECRETARY: Henry Lundell VK2ZHE 6582 0534

President's Report

July 2023



President's Report

Membership Renewals Now Due

July marks the start of a new Financial Year for the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc. Membership renewals became due on the 1st of July. **Please renew promptly.**

The simplest way to pay is by direct deposit but Treasurer Dennis Meade VK2DAM will always be pleased to receive payments by cash or card in person at the club meetings when they resume. EFT is available at all ORARC Meetings. Cheques may be posted to the club at PO Box 712, Port Macquarie NSW 2444.

ORARC VHF/UHF Repeaters

MIDDLE BROTHER

VK2RPM 2 metre (Voice - CTCSS 91.5Hz)
O/P 146.700MHz - I/P 146.100MHz

VK2RPM 70 cm (Voice - CTCSS 123Hz)
O/P 438.525MHz - I/P 433.525MHz
C4FM digital mode capability

VK2RPM-1 (APRS Digipeater)
SX 145.175MHz 1200bps

TELEGRAPH POINT

VK2RCN 2 metre (Voice)
O/P 147.000 MHz - I/P 146.400 MHz

VK2RCN 70 cm (DMR)
O/P 438.425MHz - I/P 433.425MHz

VK2RCN (6m Repeater-CTCSS 91.5Hz)
O/P 53.800 MHz - I/P 52.800 MHz
VK2RCN-5 (APRS iGate Digipeater)
SX 145.175 MHz 1200 Bps
VK2RPM EchoLink Node Number 916007

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Down The Coax

Monthly meetings & Friday Nights held in the SES Building Central Road, Port Macquarie.

ORARC meetings held in the S.E.S. Building Central Road, Port Macquarie.

**Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 1 July 2023 2:00 pm**

**Coffee Morning - Brooklyn's Burger Bar,
Thrumster
Thursday 13 July 2023**

**Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 21 July 2023 7.00 pm**

**Annual General Meeting
Saturday 5 August 2023 2:00 pm**

**Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 5 August 2023 after AGM**

**Coffee Morning - Brooklyn's Burger Bar,
Thrumster
Thursday 10 August 2023**

**Remembrance Day Contest
0300 UTC Saturday 12 August 2023 to 0300
UTC Sunday 13 August 2023**

**Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 18 August 2023 7.00 pm**

**International Lighthouse and Lightship Week-
end 19 & 20 August 2023
VK2BOR entered for Tacking Point Lighthouse**

**Monthly General Meeting
Saturday 2 September 2023 2:00 pm**

**Coffee Morning - Brooklyn's Burger Bar,
Thrumster
Thursday 14 September 2023**

**Friday Night Get-Together
Friday 15 September 2023 7.00 pm**

**The 66th Jamboree On The Air will take place
on 21 and 22 October 2023.
VK2BOR planned to operate from the Club's
Caravan at McInherney Park**

**Beechwood Billycart Classic
Sunday 22 October 2023 (To be Confirmed)**

**Coastal Walk Against Domestic Violence
Sunday 26 November 2023**

Net Controllers' Roster Nets on Voice Repeater VK2RPM 146.700 MHz

**Sundays
(0900 Local)**

**Thursdays
(1930 Local)**

July 2023

VK2FMGM	July 2	VK2EM	July 6
VK2FMGM	July 9	VK2ZHE	July 13
VK2FMGM	July 16	VK2ICQ	July 20
VK2FMGM	July 23	VK2EM	July 27
VK2FMGM	July 30		

August 2023

		VK2ZHE	Aug 3
VK2FMGM	Aug 6	VK2ICQ	Aug 10
VK2FMGM	Aug 13	VK2EM	Aug 17
VK2FMGM	Aug 20	VK2ZHE	Aug 24
VK2FMGM	Aug 27	VK2ICQ	Aug 31

September 2023

VK2FMGM	Sept 3	VK2EM	Sept 7
VK2FMGM	Sept 10	VK2ZHE	Sept 14
VK2FMGM	Sept 17	VK2ICQ	Sept 21
VK2FMGM	Sept 24	VK2EM	Sept 28

Have You Renewed?

ORARC Treasurer Dennis Meade
VK2DAM reminds ORARC members that
annual subscriptions are due for renewal on
the 1st of July 2023.

**Bank Name: Regional Australia Bank
BSB: 932000
Account Number: 500032744
Account Name: Oxley Region Amateur
Radio Club Inc.**



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Committee is pleased to advise that again there is no rise in the cost of Membership Subscriptions for the 2023-2024 Financial Year. The fees are the same as those of last year. Ordinary Membership remains at \$40 per annum. Associate Membership remains at \$20 per annum. Distant Membership remains at \$10 per annum. Family Membership remains as a single fee equal to the membership fee for the most expensive membership included in the members covered by the family membership. For example two Distant members covered by a Family Membership would pay just a single fee of \$10. An Ordinary Member and an Associate Member included in a Family Membership would pay just a single fee of \$40. Two Ordinary Members covered by a Family Membership would pay just a single fee of \$40.

Membership subscriptions may be paid by Direct Deposit to the club's Regional Australia Bank account:

Bank Name: Regional Australia Bank

BSB: 932000

Account Number: 500032744

Account Name: Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc.

Please use your callsign as the reference for the payment

Ensure that you **only use** the above **Regional Australia Bank BSB and Account number for Direct Deposits to ORARC**. From the 30th of September 2023 any deposits to the club's old Holiday Coast Credit Union account will bounce and you will be charged a fee.

It is important that all members renew their memberships and also encourage those who are currently not members to join or rejoin ORARC. The more members we have, the easier it is to keep our fees low. The club has a lot of fixed expenses and we rely on membership subscriptions to cover those

expenses. Your membership subscription is greatly valued.

Annual General Meeting

The 2023 Annual General Meeting of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc. will be held at 2 pm on Saturday the 5th of August 2023 in the SES Building, Central Road, Port Macquarie. Now is the time to consider nominating for one of the club office bearer positions. They all become vacant at the AGM. The strength of the club lies in having an active Committee to inspire and lead the club to do the many worthwhile things that enable the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club live up to all of its objectives to serve its members and the community, and to promote Amateur Radio as a hobby.

The formal Notice of the Annual General Meeting and the office bearer nomination form accompany this issue of Oxtales.

The current Committee has worked very hard to make the club's 2022-2023 Financial Year a very successful one. Amongst the achievements, the Club now has a valuable asset in the form of the new VK2RCN off-grid solar powered repeater site.

The decision to make the site off-grid solar powered means that there are no ongoing, ever increasing, mains electricity charges, and of course the site being independently powered ensures that the repeaters at the site will continue to operate in the event of failure of grid power in the area.



New VK2RCN Repeater Site at Telegraph Point

The club's sound financial position and a couple of substantial grants and donations enabled the club to work towards completing the new repeater site at Telegraph Point for the VK2RCN repeaters. This has been by far the most

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ambitious and expensive project the club has undertaken since it was formed.

The history of the development and construction of the new VK2RCN site has been well documented in previous issues of Oxtales. The project to create a new greenfield repeater site became necessary when the club was advised a couple of years ago that it would soon have to vacate the existing VK2RCN repeater site.

The Club is indebted to all the volunteers and to those who made substantial donations in cash and kind to enable the project to be completed. Yes, there are still a few things still to be done to implement the linking of the VK2RCN and VK2RPM 2 metre voice repeaters but the site has been built and all the repeaters are on air and powered by the off-grid solar power system.

VK2RPM Repeater Site at Middle Brother Mountain

The repeaters at the Middle Brother Mountain VK2RPM site are working well. The replacement of the VK2RPM 146.7 MHz two metre Yaesu DR-1X repeater with a new DR-2X repeater to facilitate linking to the VK2RCN 147.0 MHz Telegraph Point repeater will be carried out very shortly once a couple of issues with linking analogue FM signals are sorted out. The linking of Yaesu Fusion C4FM digital voice transmissions is intrinsically supported by the DR-2X repeaters when they are TCP/IP connected but analogue FM transmissions are not.

Amateur Radio NSW have very generously provided the Club with a new Motorola DMR Radnet repeater and router for the VK2RPM site. In order to expedite the installation of the DMR repeater it will replace the current 70cm UHF 438.525 MHz Yaesu DR-1X analogue and C4FM digital voice repeater. A new repeater channel is being applied for VK2RPM to reinstate the 70cm UHF voice repeater service at the site.

As the Radnet DMR repeater requires an internet connection, the availability of internet connectivity at Middle Brother will enable the VK2RPM-1 APRS digipeater to be upgraded to an iGate as VK2RPM-5. The equipment for this is on hand and the club is indebted to Lyle Smith VK2SMI for programming the iGate and setting up the access to the APRS server in Finland.

Club Activities

Normally ORARC runs a surprising number of activities and events each year. These range from the Monthly General Meetings, the Friday night get-togethers on the third Friday of each month, the weekly Sunday morning and Thursday evening club nets on the VK2RPM 146.7 MHz Middle Brother Repeater, the Wednesday morning working bees, and of course special events such as the Christmas Party, the annual Field Day on the June long weekend, and the Antenna Shootout.

The club station VK2BOR participates in the John Moyle Field Day, the Remembrance Day contest, the International Lighthouse and Lightship weekend, and the Jamboree on the Air. In addition, club members provide the safety communications for events such as the Beechwood Billycart Classic, the annual Coastal Walk Against Domestic Violence (White Ribbon Walk) in Port Macquarie, and car rallies in the area.

While the COVID-19 pandemic curtailed many of the above activities, normality is slowly returning.

The club held a very successful 2023 Annual Field Day at the Wauchope Showground Hall and Field Day Dinners at the Port Macquarie Golf Club during the Kings Birthday Long Weekends June.



Remembrance Day and International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend Contests



The club's participation in both the Remembrance Day Contest on the 12th and 13th of August 2023 and the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend on the 19th and 20th of August 2023 will be finalized at the

August Monthly General Meeting which will be held immediately after the conclusion of the AGM. Fortunately, the RD Contest and ILLW are on separate weekends this year.

Since all the "improvements" at the Tacking Point Lighthouse it is no longer practical to set the Club's Communication Caravan up at the Lighthouse itself. The ORARC Club Station VK2BOR is registered for the 2023 ILLW at the Tacking Point Lighthouse. Last year we tried a simple portable operation from a vehicle shoehorned into a parking spot. This worked quite well for making contacts. It does limit the opportunity to interact with the public and showcase Amateur Radio but it is planned to do operate this way in 2023.

Operating from the Tacking Point Surf Lifesaving Club carpark in Matthew Flinders Drive is marginally too far from the Lighthouse and does not fully comply with the intent of operating from the Lighthouse.



Discussions are taking place with the 1st Port Macquarie Sea Scouts regarding the ORARC participation in the 66th Jamboree On The Air on Saturday the 21st of October 2023.

It is a requirement of the Scouting Association that all volunteers must have a Working With Children (WWC) check number. Anyone who does not already have a WWC number can easily obtain one online at,

<https://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/child-safe-organisations/working-with-children-check>

For volunteers there is no cost. Simply complete the online form and you will receive an email. Print out the email and take it the RMS NSW Government Service Centre (In Port Macquarie it is in the building in Central Road that was originally the Motor Registry) where you will have to show your Drivers Licence for identification. The counter staff will verify the identification and you will receive the WWC number shortly afterwards by email.

Those who already have a WWC check number should check the expiry date of their certificate. Use the "Renew Your WWC Check Number" option. If your expiry date is prior to the 21st of October 2023 you will need to follow the above procedure to renew your WWC check number well before JOTA.

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Beechwood Billycart Classic



The tentative date for the 2023 Beechwood Billycart Classic is Sunday the 22nd of October 2023. ORARC have been invited to provide the safety communications again this year. Note that this is the same weekend as JOTA.

Coffee Morning



The informal Coffee Morning is held on the second Thursday of each month. Please see “Down the Coax” on page 2 of Oxtales for the dates which are also marked on the ORARC calendar.

The venue is Brooklyn’s Burger Bar in the Sovereign Hills Shopping Centre at Thrumster near the “Donut” (the junction of the Oxley Highway and the Pacific Highway). The location has proved to be very popular as it is halfway between Port Macquarie and Wauchope and being just off the highway reduces travel time for everyone. Brooklyn’s Burger Bar have a copy of the ORARC calendar and always have a large table prepared and reserved for the Club’s Coffee Mornings.

The Coffee Mornings are a great opportunity to informally meet up with



members over a great morning tea. There is always a lot of interesting discussion over a wide range of topics. Everyone is welcome including partners and visitors.

At least a couple of our recent members were introduced to the Club at Coffee Mornings.

ORARC 2023 Annual Field Day



The very successful ORARC 2023 47th Field Day was held in perfect weather on Saturday and Sunday the 10th and 11th of June during the Kings Birthday June long weekend. As well as being a very enjoyable Field Day for everyone, the Field Day was a financial success as well.

The 2023 Field Day was held at the Wauchope Showground Hall over the two days. The Hall has already been booked again for the 2024 Field Day on Saturday and Sunday the 8th and 9th of June 2024.

The Field Day Dinner was held in the Function Room at the Port Macquarie Golf Club on the evening of Saturday the 10th of June 2023. Thank you to Gary Ryan VK2ZKT of Radio Supply for again sponsoring the hire of the Function Room for the Field Day Dinner. Gary has generously offered to sponsor the hire of the Port Macquarie Golf Club Function Room for the 2024 Field Day Dinner. The room has been booked for Saturday the 8th of June 2024. Thank you, Gary.

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There were 109 paid registrations, 10 more than as at last year's Field Day. The regular contingent from Sydney and environs, the Central Coast, Newcastle, Port Stephens, Great Lakes and Taree, Kempsey and Coffs Harbour areas, the Clarence and the Northern Tablelands made the journey to Port Macquarie. The attendance list includes home towns such as Sydney, Newcastle, Maitland, Umina Beach, Warners Bay, Wyong, Lemon Tree Passage, Wyoming, Gloucester, Nambucca, Rainbow Flat, Forster, Tuncurry, Taree, Wingham, Harrington, Coopernook, Kempsey, Bellingen, Coffs Harbour, Lismore, Armidale, Coonabarabran, Wollongong, Melbourne, Adelaide and Lord Howe Island. When added to the many locals from the Hastings and Camden Haven valleys it is clear that the Field Day is indeed very popular. Thank you to everyone who attended. Please tell all your friends about the great weekend. We look forward to an even bigger attendance next year for the 48th annual Field Day.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the weekend with many complimentary comments regarding the venue and the excellent catering. No-one went hungry and lots of people found great bargains from the traders who had brought stock in especially for the Field Day.

The disposals tables were particularly busy this year with lots of bargains, and lots of free items.



Technical Demonstrations

The technical demonstrations created a lot of interest.



Many people were introduced to Hamshack Hotline and were able to experience both the high quality phone calls between the two working VOIP phones and a taste of the many other services accessible via Hamshack Hotline. Hamshack Hotline itself is free to those holding an Amateur radio Licence and just requires a simple on-line registration in order to obtain a number. The only cost is in obtaining a suitable supported VOIP phone. The popular phone is the Cisco SPA525G2 which is available second hand in good condition for a very reasonable price from a number of eBay sellers. When you register with Hamshack Hotline <https://hamshackhotline.com/> and provide the details of your supported phone you can elect (highly recommended) to have your phone automatically configured on-line. This ensures that the phone is correctly configured and saves you from having to manually set all the required parameters.



The VK2RPM DMR Radnet Repeater supplied by Amateur Radio NSW for installation at the ORARC Middle Brother Mountain site was set up in the hall as the ultimate DMR hotspot. It was a great opportunity for people to see the repeater set up and operating. Photographs right and below.



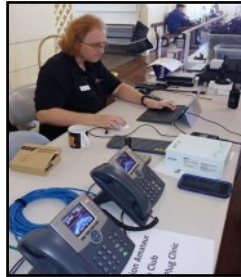
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The DMR clinic was extremely busy with Paul Colledge VK2ICQ (photograph right hand side and below) loading lots of DMR Code Plugs and firmware updates into both

newly purchased and existing DMR radios during the weekend. Some people came up from long distances especially to have code plugs loaded.



Thank you to Ian Lindquist VK2GL for providing the updated Codeplug which among many additions includes the new VK2RPM 438.525 MHz DMR repeater. The Codeplug for the Retevis RT3S and TYT MD-UV380 hand held transceivers is available as a download from Ian's website <https://vk2idl.com/index.php/dmr-digital-mobile-radio/>

Bruce Ekert VK2EM displayed and demonstrated a very interesting range of his projects. His stand was very popular with those wishing to learn more about the various modes of digital communications and the art of portable operation.



Bruce is well known as a keen portable operator. Most people will be familiar with Summits on the Air (SOTA) but Bruce has also popularized Parks on the Air (POTA). His latest passion is

Beaches on the Air (BOTA) <https://www.beachesontheair.com/> which is rapidly becoming very popular. Bruce entered a number of his projects in the Home Brew Competition which he won with his 17 metre portable loop antenna. Photograph on the next column.



Trade Displays

Radio Supply



Radio Supply had a large stock of a wide range of accessories and electronic items at discounted Field Day prices which attracted a continual amount of custom over the two

days of the Field Day. Many of the regulars take advantage of the personal shopping at the Field Day to make their annual purchases of accessories such as connectors and adaptors but are always tempted by the other items on offer.

Thank you to Gary Ryan VK2ZKT and Carol Ryan VK2CSR (pictured in the photograph above) for their long-time support of the annual Field Day, not only just for their stand, but for their ongoing very generous sponsorship in the hire of the Function Room at the Port Macquarie Golf Club for the Field Day Dinner.

Gary displayed a range of his beautifully constructed home brew projects and recent restorations on the Radio Supply stand. Photographs on the next page.

Gary had been very busy and demonstrated his expertise in achieving a very professional high quality result through attention to detail and use of readily available resources.

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His working display of his Icom IC-705 set up with his portable 6 metre antenna accessing the VK2RCN 6 metre repeater created a lot of interest.



QSL Comms



We were very pleased to welcome back QSL Comms as a trader at the Field Day. This year Mark

was only able to attend on Saturday the 10th of June. He brought along a very comprehensive range of his inventory for sale. His full inventory can be seen on the QSL Comms web site at <https://qslcomms.com.au/> Prior to the Field Day, QSL Comms advertised that people should pre-order any special items that they wanted, especially bulky items such as antennas, so that the items would be available for collection at the Field Day. Astute customers took advantage of the discounted Field Day pricing that he offered for pre-orders for collection at the Field Day .



QSL Comms very generously donated a range of prizes which very significantly increased the prize pool for the Field Day. The club is particularly appreciative of these generous donations which greatly increased

interest in the major raffle and the lucky door draws. Thank you, Mark.

Mobile One



We were very pleased to welcome Mobile One as a Trade Exhibitor this year. Greg Ackman VK4BBX called in to last year's field day and decided to bring a comprehensive range of his products along and set up a stand this year. Mobile One is a long standing well-known Australian manufacturer of antennas and accessories for both the communications

industry and the Amateur and CB market. <https://www.mobileone.com.au/> The stand created a lot of interest and many people were noted sporting newly purchased Mobile One antennas.

Mobile One very kindly donated a CDB146 half wave 2 metre base station antenna as a Field Day prize. Thank you, Greg.

Redcap Antennas Kaysan

Sandy Bruce Smith VK2WH is known for his range of Kaysan Engineering rail products but he also manufactures a range of Redcap VHF and UHF antennas. Sandy's stand had a steady stream of visitors throughout the weekend. He had an interesting range of useful items for sale including some of his 3D printed hardware. Sandy has done a lot of research into the optimal 3D printing media for strength, UV and temperature tolerance and high voltage withstanding qualities for his products. For Amateur Radio his VHF Yagi antenna element mounts which includes a version with provision to support a gamma match, greatly simplify antenna construction.

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Many people just took the opportunity to catch up with Sandy and reminisce over his long association with Amateur Radio and the electronics industry during the last six decades. He was previously VK2AD and is well remembered for his years with Dick Smith and with Kenwood Australia before spending time running his own business in New Zealand.

ALARA

Sadly, there was no Australian Ladies Amateur Radio Association (ALARA) stand this Year's Field Day. Diane Wilson VK2DNE who had intended running the stand became a Silent Key as reported in the May 2023 issue of Oxtales.

For more information about ALARA visit <http://www.alara.org.au/>. ALARA is one of many international associations of ladies in Amateur Radio. In Australia there are some 200 members. It is hoped that ALARA will be able to run an ALARA stand at future events.

Disposals

There were many diverse bargains from the disposals tables. There was everything from transceivers, test equipment and surplus commercial equipment to antennas, cables, connectors and hardware. There were some high quality items at very keen prices for discerning buyers.

Special thanks go to club member Wade Boyd VK2EST from Wingham who brought a vast array items along to both sell and give away. Wade donated the takings from the sales to the Club.

Life Member David Pilley VK2AYD brought many useful items along to both sell and give away. David donated the takings from the donation tins on his tables to the Club.

A substantial collection of useful equipment and antennas generously donated by Jim Neil VK2VIV was sold with the proceeds significantly adding to the ORARC Field Day takings. Jim has moved to Queensland but is remaining a Distant Member of the Club. Thank you to Barry Gilson VK2LBG for picking up the donated items from Jim and bringing them to the Field Day.



The free back issues of magazines like Silicon Chip and DIYode from Jaycar were supplemented by a large number of free copies of Electronics Australia from the estate of late Cub Member Jim Webster VK2BZD (SK) brought in by Paul Webster VK2BZC. Many people were seen looking for issues to complete their collections.

Jaycar

Jaycar donated a very large number of back issues of electronics magazines to be given away at the Field Day. Jaycar Port Macquarie also donated several very nice Field Day prizes. Thank you to Jaycar for their ongoing support.

Battery World

Thank you to Battery World Port Macquarie for their generous donation of a range of useful give away items which were highly coveted, none more so than the very useful attractive hats.

Battery World are a regular valued supporter of the ORARC Annual Field Days.



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Field Day Dinner



The Field Day dinner at the Port Macquarie Golf Club at Tacking Point was very popular again this year with approximately 30 people enjoying excellent food and a pleasant social evening in the Function Room. Thank you to Gary Ryan VK2ZKT for the generous sponsorship by Radio Supply of the hire of the Function Room for the dinner. The spacious function room provided a very pleasant environment for the Field Day Dinner and ensured that social distancing was easily maintained.

It is with pleasure that we can announce that the 2024 Field Day Dinner will again be in the Function Room at the Port Macquarie Golf Club. ORARC wishes to express its sincere thanks to Gary Ryan VK2ZKT for the generous ongoing sponsorship by Radio Supply of the hire of the Function Room which has been booked for the 2024 Field Day dinner on Saturday the 8th of June 2024.



Fox Hunts

Fox hunting has a strong tradition at the annual Field Days and this year competition was as intense usual, albeit with fewer participants. Some of the regulars were

unable to attend this year but there was still a competitive field of hounds in each hunt.

Thank you to Larry Lindsay VK2CLL who hid and recovered the fox hunt transmitters with help from John Hansen VK2AYQ, Grahame O'Brien VK2FA, Riley O'Brien VK2KZV and Wade Boyd VK2EST.



Foxes ready to hunt, Gerard VK2IO, Jeff VK2BYY, Riley VK2KZV and Chris VK2YMW

This year the club again had the three 4 Watt self-contained 80 metre foxes that were built in time for last year's Field Day. The foxes are in robust waterproof "ammo case" housings with their transmitters and keys powered by inbuilt 12 Volt AGM deep cycle batteries. 80 metre resonant HVT-400 mobile helical whips are mounted directly on the ammo cases and a four wire counterpoise completes the antenna system. The only complaint from the hounds was that the signals from the transmitters were too strong!

The foxes for the 2 metre mobile events utilized the timers built and donated by Craig Martin VK2CSM who became a Silent Key after the Field Day as reported in this issue of Oxtales. This was the first year that Craig had been unable to attend the Field Day and many people asked about his absence.

This year Arthur Monck VK2ATM was the foxhunt starter and recorder. Thank you to Arthur taking on this job at short notice.



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Peter Kucera VK2MPK had been intending to be the starter and recorder for the foxhunts. However, he underwent serious urgent life-saving surgery in the week before the Field Day and was still in hospital in Sydney. He is now back home for a lengthy convalescence on his road to recovery. Peter is looking forward to being the foxhunt starter and recorder next year.



Field Day Results

Congratulations to 2023 Fox Hunt Champion Gerard Hill VK2IO of Castle Hill. The Runner-up Fox Hunt Champion was Chris Williams VK2YMW of Hornsby with Jeff Pages VK2BYY of Umina Beach third. The top hunters are always keen to see their names engraved on those little shields that are added to the Perpetual Trophy each year. There is very little space left on the Perpetual Trophy to add new shields so the new shields are now being placed on the sides of the pedestal. In a few years the trophy will be full and we will then need a new Perpetual Trophy.

Barry Gilson VK2LBG took out the trophy for the best presented amateur vehicle. There were several worthy contenders but Barry's vehicle stood out.

Bruce Ekert VK2EM of Tuncurry won the trophy for the Home Brew Competition with his innovative 17 metre spiral loop antenna.

The various entries on the home brew table and the displays by Gary Ryan VK2ZKT and Bruce Ekert VK2EM demonstrate that the art of Amateur Radio home brewing is still popular.



Thanks to many generous donations the major raffle and lucky door prizes were of an extremely high standard this year. The prizes included a hand held transceiver, two Tecsun high quality portable receivers, a Mobile One 2 metre base station antenna, various items of test equipment and tools. Thanks to QSL Comms, Mobile One, Jaycar Port Macquarie, Radio Supply, Battery World, Tecsun Australia and VK2ZHE.

The full lists of all the prizes and the winners appear in this this issue of Oxtales.

The Major Raffle first prize winner Dennis Meade VK2DAM of Port Macquarie took home the much coveted Tecsun PL368 compact LW/MW/SW/FM full coverage AM/FM/USB/LSB/Synchronous AM radio receiver donated by Tecsun Australia and VK2ZHE.

The second prize in the raffle, the Tecsun PL330 compact LW/MW/SW/FM full coverage AM/FM/USB/LSB/Synchronous AM radio receiver donated by Tecsun Australia and VK2ZHE was won by Wade Boyd VK2EST of Wingham.

With a total of 10 prizes in the Major Raffle the draw was keenly watched. The subsequent prizes, all donated by QSL Comms, Mobile One, Jaycar and VK2ZHE included a wide range of high quality prizes.

Thank you to Yulia Ekert, XYL of Bruce Ekert VK2EM, for drawing the raffle prizes.

The Callsign Lucky Door first prize of an Avair AV-20 Cross *Continued on next page*

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Needle VSWR Power Meter donated by QSL Comms went to David Ritchings VK2BDR of Invergowrie in the Uralla Shire near Armidale. Yes, Invergowrie is named after the village of the same name in Scotland.

The callsign Lucky Door draw second prize of a Surmen 4m Magnetic mobile antenna mount donated by QSL Comms was won by Bob Ecclestone VK2ZRE of Kempsey.

In the non-callsign lucky door draw, first prize of the 7x50 Binoculars was won by Kel Burns of Sydney. The second prize of the two 1,000 piece jigsaw puzzles was won by Nancy Shuetrim of Failford.

Full lists of all the Major Raffle, Callsign Lucky Door Draw and Non-Callsign Lucky Door Draw prize winners and a full list of Trophy winners appear in this issue of Oxtales.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the Field Day weekend. There are too many people to individually thank in this column but as already mentioned, many of the volunteers put in extraordinary efforts during the weekend as a number of those who normally volunteer for various tasks were either absent or not able to undertake the tasks that they had done in previous years. It did mean that some people doubled up and undertook more than one task. The result was that the weekend events all ran smoothly and everyone was well fed.

The Wauchope Showground hall has a dedicated basic kitchen but there was still a lot of work to barbeque and serve delicious food and drink throughout the weekend. Thanks to Paula Colledge VK2PDC, Sue Meade, Lesley, and to John Bailey VK2KHB for running the busy kitchen throughout the two days of the Field Day. As with last year a professional glass fronted Bain Marie was hired to keep the hot food hot. This year an electric barbeque was used instead of the outdoor gas barbeque. This

worked well and saved a great many steps by not having to go outside to cook.

John Bailey VK2KHB did a great job in obtaining all the provisions. As he has done for many years, John very generously donated most of the food and consumables, and all of the soft drinks. The generosity of John and other benefactors such as Henry Lundell VK2ZHE who donated the sausages, steak, bacon and the fruit salad and ice cream ensured that that sale of the very reasonably priced food was profitable.

Thank you to again to the food service team. There was always someone behind the counter to provide immediate service. The free tea, coffee and biscuits were continuously available in the dining alcove which worked particularly well and drew much favourable comment.

The breakfast bacon and egg sandwiches were particularly popular on both days. The sausage sandwiches on both days were very popular. The steak sandwiches on both days were very popular and Paula Colledge VK2PDC produced her famous hamburger patties to supplement the steak. Word of how delicious the food was spread very quickly. The secret was in the quality of the ingredients and the expert barbequing. As always the fruit salad and ice cream dessert nicely rounded out Sunday lunch.

Thank you also to those who tirelessly ran the registration desk at the entrance to the hall and sold all the tickets for the food, drinks and the raffle. Special thanks must go to David Pilley VK2AYD, Arthur Monck VK2ATM, Geoff Thorley VK2GJT and Treasurer Dennis Meade VK2DAM.



Treasurer Dennis VK2DAM at the registration desk with the 'magic' white square for electronic payments.

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“Have you purchased your raffle tickets yet?”

Geoff Thorley VK2GJT at the registration desk selling raffle tickets.

At the end of the weekend Dennis was happy that the money and ticket sales reconciled after he accounted for the EFT sales, and that the Field Day had made a substantial profit. Some members took the opportunity to pay their membership subscriptions. The availability of EFT proved popular and is now taken for granted as some people no longer carry cash. Thank you to Dennis Meade VK2DAM for running the EFT facility.

Thank you to the many willing hands who set up the hall on Saturday morning and then packed everything up on Sunday afternoon. The Showground Caretaker did a check as the hall was finally swept and everything was stowed. He was happy. It was hard to believe that only a few hours earlier the hall and environs had been a hive of activity with 109 attendees and a mountain of paraphernalia. Thank you to everyone for a great job. ORARC promptly received a refund of the \$250.00 bond for the hall together with another accolade for being model hirers. The \$250.00 bond was rolled over as the bond for the hire of the Showground Hall in 2024 for next year's Field Day.

The generosity of the benefactors who so kindly donated all the prizes, food and drink is greatly appreciated. The financial success of the Field Day while keeping registration at a low \$5 per person is due to the generosity of these donations.

Finally, thank you to everyone who attended the Field Day. The support is greatly appreciated.

The 2024 Field Day is only 11 months away. It will be the 48th annual Field Day. As already mentioned, the Wauchope Showground Hall has already been booked and the bond lodged. The Golf Club Function Room has already been booked for the Saturday night Field Day dinner. Thank you for Gary Ryan VK2ZKT of Radio Supply for again sponsoring the hire of the function room. We are looking forward to welcoming everyone to another enjoyable successful Field Day in 2024.

Foundation Licence weekend and Assessments

The next Foundation Licence weekend and Assessments for all grades of licences will be conducted as soon as sufficient candidates register.

The Australian Maritime College (AMC) will cease being responsible for Amateur Radio examinations and licencing in February 2024. The Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) will then resume being responsible for both examinations and licencing. This will coincide with the introduction of Class Licensing for the Amateur Radio Service.

It is recommended that intending candidates for Amateur Radio licence assessments should contact ORARC as early as possible so that assessments and licence applications can be completed under the present arrangements before the end of this year.

Candidates who would like to obtain their Foundation Licence or upgrade, please contact Education Officer Larry Lindsay VK2CLL. This will help Larry to plan the next Assessment weekend which will be conducted when sufficient candidates have registered. Once you have registered your interest, Larry will contact you as soon as it

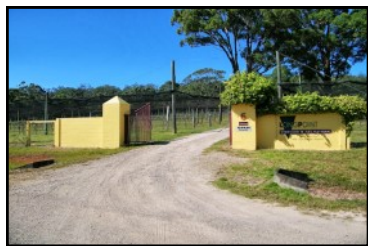
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becomes possible to run another training and assessment weekend.

Note also that remote assessment is possible. Please contact Larry VK2CLL for further information.

ORARC 2023 Christmas Party



The ORARC Christmas Party is held on the first Saturday in December each year in place of the December Monthly

General Meeting. The 2023 Christmas Party will be held on Saturday the 2nd of December as marked on the ORARC 2023 calendar.

The 2023 Christmas Party venue remains the same as in previous years. It is the covered outdoor picnic area at the Long Point Vineyard and Art Gallery. The Christmas Party is always an enjoyable opportunity to socialize with members and their families. We look forward to seeing everyone there on Saturday the 2nd of December 2023.



WICEN

WICEN (NSW) Mid North Coast Group

The WICEN (NSW) Mid North Coast Region group holds its monthly meetings after the conclusion of the ORARC Monthly General Meetings in the SES Building in Port Macquarie. Current and

prospective WICEN members are invited to attend the meetings. Anyone interested in joining WICEN should come along to the meetings. For more information, visit the WICEN NSW website <http://www.nsw.wicen.org.au/>

The WICEN (NSW) Mid North Coast Region group conducts a net on the WICEN 80 metre frequency of 3600 kHz LSB at 7 pm local time on Thursday nights. The nets finish in time for members to participate in the ORARC Thursday night net at 7:30 pm on the VK2RPM 146.7 MHz 2 metre repeater.



ORARC closed Google Group

The Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc. has a closed Google Group which is used to send emails to members. The group is administered by ORARC Vice President and Webmaster Paul Colledge VK2ICQ. Email addresses of those in the group are not shared with anyone else. Only a very small number of emails are sent via the group each month. The agendas and minutes of ORARC monthly meetings are emailed to members this way. As well you will receive notification of the monthly informal coffee morning.

If you haven't been receiving the ORARC meeting agendas and minutes by email it means that either the email that you provided Paul VK2ICQ is no longer current, or that you haven't been added to the group. Membership of the ORARC closed Google Group is not mandatory but you will not receive emails sent via the group if you are not a member.

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If you haven't been receiving the ORARC meeting agendas and minutes, and wish to be included in the ORARC closed Google Group, please send an email to vk2zhe@orarc.org and your request will be passed on to Paul VK2ICQ.

Welcome New Members

The Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club welcomes new member Gregory Hall VK2GTH of Elands

Life Membership

Members are reminded that members are eligible for Life Membership when they turn 85 years. This year two eligible members have been nominated for Life Membership. They are Des Thompson VK9FLHI of Lord Howe Island and Bob Yorston VK2CAN of Roseville in Sydney. Life Membership can only be conferred at the AGM. Please advise the Committee urgently if you or any members that you know are turning 85 this year so that the motion to bestow Life Membership can be included in the agenda for the AGM as motions cannot be received from the floor at the AGM.

Silent Keys

Vale Craig Martin VK2CSM (SK)

It is with great sadness that we record the passing of esteemed long time ORARC member Craig Martin VK2CSM. Please see the Silent Key Vale Craig Shubrick Martin VK2CSM in this issue of Oxtales.

Vale Trevor Niven VK5NC (SK)

It is with great sadness that we belatedly record the passing of esteemed ORARC member Trevor Niven VK5NC on the 17 of February 2023 in Perth aged 78 years. Trevor joined ORARC in 2011 when he and Colin Hutchesson VK5DK were regularly coming to Port Macquarie from Mount Gambier to visit Neil Sandford VK2EI (SK) to make long distance microwave contacts

up and down the eastern seaboard. In 2020 Trevor moved from Mount Gambier to Perth to be near his family. His funeral was in Perth on the 27th of February 2023. Please see the Silent Key Vale Trevor Niven VK5NC in this issue of Oxtales. The Silent Key was prepared by Chris Skeer VK5MC of the South East Radio Group in South Australia for Amateur Radio Magazine. Trevor was a Life Member of the South East Radio Group.

Henry Lundell VK2ZHE
President

Photograph from the recent working Bee at the New Telegraph Point Repeater Site.



What a crew spreading gravel. Rob VK2CRF, Larry VK2CLL with VK2Lilley, Arthur VK2ATM, Lyle VK2SMI and Dennis VK2DAM.

*Photographer Henry VK2ZHE
The entrance to the site with the gravel covering the bare earth will now provide a much better access in the event of wet weather.*

ORARC Field Day Prize Winners 2023

Callsign Lucky Door

	Description	Donated By	Winner Callsign	Winner Name	Town
1st Prize	Avair AV-20 Cross Needle Power Meter	QSL Comms	VK2BDR	David Ritchings	Invergowrie
2nd Prize	Surmen 4m Magnetic mobile antenna mount	QSL Comms	VK2ZRE	Bob Ecclestone	Kempsey
3rd Prize	Icom HM-118N hand microphone	QSL Comms	VK2AYQ	John Hansen	Port Macquarie
4th Prize	Jaikemy Protech Precision Driver Set	QSL Comms	VK2GCF	Graeme Frappell	Port Macquarie
5th Prize	Precision Sidecutters	VK2ZHE	VK2ICQ	Paul Colledge	Port Macquarie



Two of the prize winners:

Left John VK2AYQ third prize and

Right Paul VK2ICQ fifth prize.



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ORARC Field Day Prize Winners 2023

Non-Callsign Lucky Door

	Description	Donated By	Winner Name	Town
1st Prize	7X50 Binoculars	VK2ZHE	Kel Burns	Sydney
2nd Prize	Two 1000 Piece Jigsaw Puzzles	VK2ZHE	Nancy Shuetrim	Failford
3rd Prize	Retro Bluetooth Speaker	VK2ZHE	Kel Burns	Sydney
4th Prize	Pocket Digital Scales	VK2ZHE	Xanthes Anderson	Coonabarabran



Stuart VK2BMX picks up Kel Burns prize.



Bruce VK2EM picks Nancy Shuetrim's prize for Nancy.



Rod VK2AJ picks up Xanthes Anderson's prize.

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ORARC Field Day Prize Winners 2023

Major Raffle

	Description	Donated By	Winner Callsign	Winner Name	Town
1st Prize	Tecsun PL368 SSB LW/MW/SW/FM Receiver with Keypad Frequency Entry and USB Rechargeable battery	Tecsun Radios Australia/VK2ZHE	VK2DAM	Dennis Meade	Port Macquarie
2nd Prize	Tecsun PL330 SSB LW/MW/SW/FM Receiver with Keypad Frequency Entry and USB Rechargeable battery	Tecsun Radios Australia/VK2ZHE	VK2EST	Wade Boyd	Wingham
3rd Prize	Quansheng VHF/UHF 2 Metre 70cm dual band hand held Analogue FM Transceiver with 6 Metres Receive	VK2ZHE	VK2KJ	Ken Jackson	Grafton
4th Prize	Bench Power Supply 0-30 Volts DC with 0-10 Amp adjustable current limit	VK2ZHE	VK9FLHI	Des Thompson	Lord Howe Island
5th Prize	Mobile One CDB146 2 Metre Base Station half wave vertical antenna	Mobile One	VK2AYQ	John Hansen	Port Macquarie
6th Prize	Duratech TD2459 Mini Grinder Set	Jaycar	VK2AJ	Rod Bailey	Port Macquarie
7th Prize	Protech TD2180 Work Pro Ratchet Screwdriver Set	Jaycar	VK2PJW	John Winter	Krambach
8th Prize	TS750 Communications Extension Speaker	QSL Comms	VK2EST	Wade Boyd	Wingham
9th Prize	A830L Digital Multimeter	QSL Comms	VK2PJW	John Winter	Krambach
10th Prize	Protech TH1827 Wire Stripper Tool	Jaycar	VK2LBG	Barry Gilson	Port Macquarie



Paul VK2ICQ, and Yulia Ekert present Dennis VK2DAM with first prize.

Below Ken VK2KJ receives third prize.



Bruce in middle accepts Wade VK2EST's second prize with Yulia who was the ticket drawer.

Below Henry VK2ZHE collects distant member VK9FLHI fourth prize.



ORARC Field Day 2023 - Trophy Winners

Trophy	Callsign	Name	Town (Home QTH)
Saturday 2 Metre Pedestrian Fox Hunt	VK2YMW	Chris Williams	Hornsby
Saturday 2 Metre Mobile Fox Hunt	VK2IO	Gerard Hill	Castle Hill
Saturday 80 Metre Pedestrian Fox Hunt	VK2BYY	Jeff Pages	Umina Beach
2 Metre Talk In Fox Hunt	VK2YMW	Chris Williams	Hornsby
Sunday 80 Metre Pedestrian Fox Hunt	VK2IO	Gerard Hill	Castle Hill
Sunday 80 Metre Mobile Fox Hunt	VK2IO	Gerard Hill	Castle Hill
Sunday 2 Metre Mobile Fox Hunt	VK2IO	Gerard Hill	Castle Hill
Fox Hunt Champion	VK2IO	Gerard Hill	Castle Hill
Runner- Up Fox Hunt Champion	VK2YMW	Chris Williams	Hornsby
Best Presented Amateur Vehicle	VK2LBG	Barry Gilson	Port Macquarie
Best Home Brew Display	VK2EM	Bruce Ekert	Tuncurry



Saturday 2 Metre Pedestrian Fox Hunt Chris VK2YMW above, below



Saturday 2 Metre Mobile Fox Hunt Gerard VK2IO above, below



Saturday 80 Metre Pedestrian Fox Hunt Jeff VK2BYY above, below

Sunday 80 Metre Pedestrian Fox Hunt Gerard VK2IO

Sunday 80 Metre Mobile Fox Hunt Gerard VK2IO

2 Metre Mobile Fox Hunt Gerard VK2IO



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Fox Hunt Champion 2023



Gerard VK2IO



Runner up Fox Champion

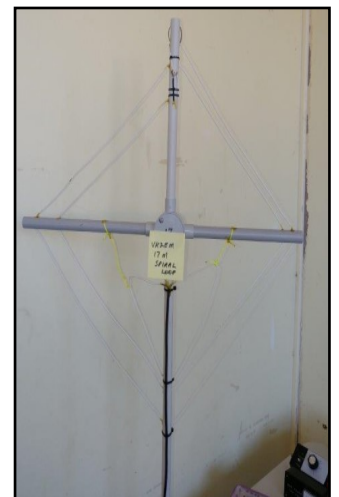


Chris VK2YMW

**Below Best presented Amateur Vehicle
Barry VK2LBG**



**Best Home Brew Display
Bruce VK2EM**



Additional Photographs from the Field Day.



The antennas on Barry VK2LBG best presented amateur vehicle.



Gary Ryan VK2ZKT demonstrated 6 metre operations on his ICOM 705



Greg Ackman VK4BBX Mobile One puts up a sign.

The Bird, the Fox and the Cow Dung

A little bird was flying north for the winter. It was so cold, the bird froze and fell to the ground into a large field. While she was lying there, a cow came by and dropped some dung on her. As the frozen bird lay there in the pile of cow dung, she began to realise how warm she was getting, as the dung was actually thawing her out. She lay there all warm and happy, and soon began to sing for joy.

A passing fox heard the bird singing and came to investigate. Following the sound, the fox discovered the bird under the pile of cow dung, promptly dug her out and ate her.

Moral of the story

1. Not everyone who puts you in it is your enemy.
2. Not everyone who gets you out of it is your friend.
3. And when you are in it, it's best to keep your mouth shut!

Original Author Unknown submitted by Bob VK2ZRE



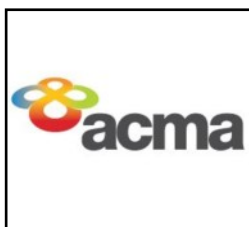
The above item was found on the internet and although judging by the clothes and the characters was from years ago is I think quite relevant today!



ACMA engage with Amateur Radio Examination Assessors

Date : 21 / 06 / 2023

Author : Lee Moyle - VK3GK



Earlier today, Wednesday 21st June, ACMA had pre-arranged a zoom session with all current AMC Amateur radio examination assessors whose contact

information was provided to ACMA by AMC.

This was to inform them of the new arrangements ACMA plan to be implementing now that AMC have officially informed ACMA they will not be renewing the deed to continue the exam services after February 2024.

ACMA propose to initially replicate many of the current AMC exam processes but with a couple of welcomed changes which were enthusiastically received by most assessors on the information session.

Proposed is that assessors will once again be able to mark the exams for the candidates at the completion of the exam as the WIA had been doing previously to AMC.

Candidates now would be informed of their results and can be provided with direct feedback on the exam results or areas that may need attention if they may need to re-sit again.

Currently only one assessor is required to conduct an exam and this is being continued.

Many aspects will need to be fine tuned, such as the exam payment process, searchable available callsign database, callsign registers and allocation of callsigns to applicants.

ACMA are being extremely receptive as they envisage a smooth transition from AMC to the ACMA's exam service, commencing February 2024.

Given the extensive previous amateur radio exam experience and knowledge of exam delivery, WIA have offered ACMA assistance as required.

You can email ACMA with your concerns at SpectrumLicensingPolicy@acma.gov.au with Assessor accreditation in the subject line.

The WIA will also be responding to the consultation and would welcome any comments and concerns for consideration to their consultation response.

June 17th 2023 is QRP Day

Date : 16 / 06 / 2023

Author : Oscar Reyes VK3TX



Dear Colleagues:

The interest in QRP activities is everlasting in the amateur radio community worldwide.

QRP radio communications testify the high ability of radio amateurs and offers advantages concerning, among others, the reduction of QRM on the amateur bands.

The 10th IARU Region 3 Conference held in September 1997 in Beijing has resolved the following recommendations based on the document (97/X/14) submitted by NZART, which says;

"That Region 3

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Societies help to promote the IARU objectives for QRP operation, specifically: i) to support QRP operation on June 17 each year; ii) to foster QRP activities by their members; iii) to encourage regular publication of QRP articles in their national magazines; iv) to provide QRP sections in any national contests; and) to assist other Societies with the promotion and development of QRP."

Accordingly, member Societies are requested to note the above resolution and take appropriate actions with reference to the holdings of the following events, for example, in order to contribute to more effective use of radio spectrum:

QRP Field Day, QRP Contest, Distribution of QRP Transmitter Kits and Reference Book, and Workshop of QRP Operation.

73,
Yuki, Yosuke Uchiyama, JH1NBN
Secretary, IARU Region 3

Move to enable UK Full licensees to use 1 kW

Date : 27 / 06 / 2023

Author : Roger Harrison VK2ZRH



The British radiocommunications regulator, Ofcom, has launched a consultation on amateur radio licensing that proposes, amongst other

things, changes to permitted maximum power for Full licensees to use "1000 Watts in bands where amateur radio has a primary allocation."

Further to that, Ofcom proposes to increase the maximum permitted transmit power for Foundation licensees to 20 Watts in most bands and 100 Watts for Intermediate licensees.

Ofcom reveals that it intends to make changes to the amateur radio licensing framework "...

to provide greater operating freedom for people using amateur radio while making the process of getting and using a licence simpler, clearer and more consistent and responsive."

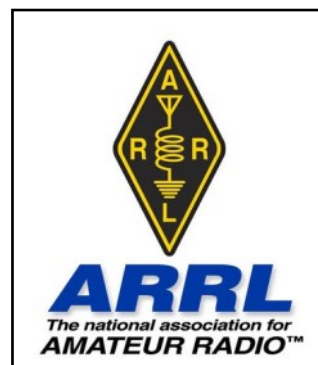
Ofcom also proposes to streamline and modernise call sign assignment, along with providing clearer and less complex rules.

Some of the changes Ofcom now proposes for UK amateurs are very similar to those advocated, or achieved, by the WIA for Australian amateurs over the past decade, or more.

Recently, Ofcom required all UK amateurs to undertake electromagnetic radiation impact assessments of their stations, forwarding the results.

In Australia, since 2003, the ACMA has required licensees to undertake such assessments and to maintain documentation of the results; for licensees applying to run powers higher than 400 Watts, the ACMA may require a licensee to produce that documentation.

Whether Ofcom's move will influence the ACMA's thinking on Australian amateur licensing remains to be seen while the ACMA proceeds through its 5-year work plan.



HAM RADIO in Germany Draws International Crowd

06/30/2023

The 46th annual International Amateur Radio Exhibition, HAM RADIO, attracted

more than 11,000 visitors to Friedrichshafen, Germany, June 23 - 25, 2023.

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®, which has nearly 7,000 international members, sends a small delegation to the convention each year -- greeting members

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and friends from the global amateur radio community, and networking with other national radio societies. ARRL representatives included President Rick Roderick, K5UR and his wife Holly Roderick; CEO David Minster, NA2AA; Director of Operations Bob Naumann, W5OV, and Director of Marketing and Innovation Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R.

Messe Friedrichshafen Managing Director Klaus Wellmann and Project Manager Petra Rathgeber were delighted with the success of the event.

"HAM RADIO lived up to its reputation as Europe's largest amateur radio exhibition. In cooperation with the German Amateur Radio Club (DARC), the perfect partner for the event, we showed that amateur radio plays an important role in society," said Wellmann and Rathgeber. "This year's slogan, 'We're all about STEM!' was brought to full fruition, with many activities focusing on work with young people -- something that really brought in the crowds.



A recent press release from HAM RADIO said young attendees were able to tinker and make things under guidance, and they were also able to test their knowledge in the Ham Rally, a technical scavenger hunt featuring 25 stations. Students were encouraged to try sending Morse code, and pass the QSL card quiz. ARRL participated in the Ham Rally, challenging young people to name and identify the US states.

"We were really happy with the way this year's exhibition went," said Christian Entsfellner, DL3MBG, Chairman of DARC.

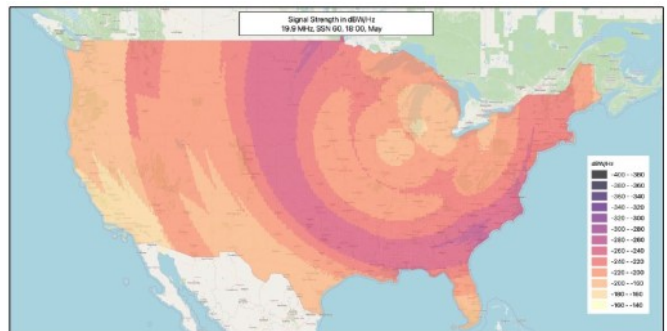
A total of 392 participants, including 149 commercial exhibitors and international associations, as well as 243 flea market exhibitors, represented the unique diversity of amateur radio around the world.

Plans are already being made for next year's HAM RADIO to be held June 28 - 30, 2024. More information is available at HAM RADIO.

See also ARRL's photo album from the convention on Facebook.

Commercial Interests Petition FCC for High Power Allocation on Shortwave Spectrum

07/11/2023



An example of signal strength predictions from the technical study submitted by the SMC with its petition to the FCC. In this example the desired signal is being sent from Chicago to the east.

The ad hoc group "Shortwave Modernization Coalition" petitioned the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to allow data communications on multiple bands within the HF 2 – 25 MHz range with up to 20 KW, including in bands immediately adjacent to spectrum allocated to the Amateur Radio Service. This group appears to represent high-speed stock trading interests.

The FCC has assigned it RM-11953. Comments are due by July 31, 2023, and reply

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comments by August 15. While the petitioners exclude the amateur bands, high power operations on immediately adjacent bands are proposed.

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® is reviewing the petition. A copy of the petition is at: <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/1042840187330/1> (PDF).



The K7RA Solar Update

07/07/2023

The average daily sunspot number for June, 2023 was the highest in 21 years, according to Spaceweather.com.

From a July 3 email alert from Spaceweather.com:

"SUNSPOT COUNTS HIT A 21-YEAR HIGH: It's official: The average sunspot number in June 2023 hit a 21-year high. Solar Cycle 25 has shot past its predecessor, Solar Cycle 24, and may be on pace to rival some of the stronger cycles of the 20th century."

Could we see another Cycle 19, the biggest in recorded history, even back before the birth of radio? Not too long ago, we heard that this cycle should peak in summer 2025. Later that was revised to 2024. Now I am seeing occasional references to a cycle peak at the end of this year. From my own records, average daily sunspot numbers for April through June 2023 were 93.7, 125.8 and 143.9, a nice upward trend.

Weekly Commentary on the Sun, the Magnetosphere, and the Earth's Ionosphere for July 6, 2023 from F. K. Janda, OK1HH. When the current 25th solar cycle began in Decem-

ber 2019, solar astronomers thought it would be a weak cycle similar to its immediate predecessor, solar cycle 24. But now we have a twenty-one year peak. And we expect a continued increase for about two more years.

Not only is solar cycle 25 likely to rival some of the more powerful cycles of the 20th century, but we're likely to see even more powerful solar flares and magnetic storms. History repeats itself cyclically, and we need only think of the great Halloween storm of 2003, including the strongest solar flare ever recorded in X-ray (X45).

The giant sunspot group AR3354 (only about four times smaller than the giant sunspot group of early September 1859) made its last appearance on July 2 with an X-class flare. Two days later it eclipsed.

For more information concerning shortwave radio propagation, see <http://www.arrl.org/propagation> and the ARRL Technical Information Service at <http://arrl.org/propagation-of-rf-signals>.



David VK2AYD is kindly supplying various Amateur Radio Newsline Reports on the world of Amateur Radio.

Amateur Radio Newsline Report 2385 for Friday July 14th, 2023

UK CHOSEN TO HOST WRTC 2026

PAUL/ANCHOR: Our top story takes us to the World Radiosport Team Championship. The prestigious international competition wrapped up in Italy on July 9th and the winners were

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announced -- including the venue selected to host the competition in 2026. Jeremy Boot G4NJH brings us that report.

JEREMY: The World Radiosport Team Championship - a high profile competition often viewed as the Olympics of amateur radio - has declared the United Kingdom the winner in the selection process to be host site for the next international contest. The English counties of Norfolk, Cambridgeshire and Suffolk - all in East Anglia - were selected by the Sanctioning Committee to serve as home to the 50 operating locations for the competing two-person teams.

In an interview with ICQ Podcast presenter/technical editor Martin Butler, M1MRB, WRTC President Mark Haynes MØDXR said organisers are going to rely heavily on amateur volunteers throughout the UK to provide technical help and support during setup and operation.



Meanwhile, as WRTC 2022 concluded, the top three winning pairs - among the other victorious operators - were identified as UW7LL and VE3DZ for first place; DJ5MW and DL1IAO, second place; and 9A7DX / 9A3LG, third. For a full list of winners and their scores, visit the WRTC 2022 website at wrtc2022 dot it (wrtc2022.it).

Newsline would also like to congratulate our colleagues at the ICQ Podcast, which has been chosen as a media partner, providing updates as the organising progress goes forward. The announcement was made on the podcast's website on 10th July by its founding editor, Colin Butler, M6BOY.

STUDY CONFIRMS EMISSIONS FROM SATELLITE CONSTELLATIONS

PAUL/ANCHOR: According to a new study, those tiny low-earth orbit satellites

may be delivering something unwanted and much less attractive than broadband internet access. Jim Meachen ZL2BHF has the details.

JIM: Large satellite constellations that provide detailed Earth imagery as well as broadband internet access to some regions have been shown to emit unintended electromagnetic radiation that may prove a challenge to radio astronomers' research. Scientists at the Max Planck Institute for Radio Astronomy in Germany report that interfering signals appear to come from the electronics on board a number of SpaceX satellites. Writing in the journal *Astronomy & Astrophysics*, the researchers said they made the discovery using the facility's Low Frequency Array telescope. They drew their conclusions after observing 68 of the satellites in low earth orbit.



The report's lead author, Federico Di Vruno, said [quote] "This study represents the latest

effort to better understand satellite constellations' impact on radio astronomy." [endquote] The scientist said that the most recent observations confirm there is a measurable existence of the radiation.

SCOUTING'S GIRLS, BOYS ON AIR FOR NATIONAL JAMBOREE



PAUL/ANCHOR: July is Scouting Jamboree month and this year it's for girls as well as boys in the American section of the worldwide scouting organization, Bill Stearns, NE4RD has that story for us.

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BILL: National Jamboree is the largest outdoor educational event organized by the Boy Scouts of America. Held every four years, the Jamboree offers a program of educational and training events; high adventure activities; tests of strength and endurance; entertainment, and camaraderie with fellow Scouts from around the nation. The year 2023 will be the first National Jamboree to include Scouts BSA female participants. The Boy Scout program was renamed Scouts BSA when female participants were welcomed in 2019.

The K2BSA Amateur Radio Association will be active from the National Jamboree July 19th through the 28th. They will have a demonstration station where Scouts can get on the air and radio merit badge classes throughout the event. The operation was funded by a grant from the ARDC and powered by Icom America transceivers.

You can participate in this event by being the amateur on the other end of the call. Help Scouts earn their contact cards and complete a requirement for their merit badge. K2BSA will be active minimally from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time on 40m through 10m as conditions permit, on D-STAR REF033A, and on Echolink on *JOTA-365*.

For Amateur Radio Newline and the K2BSA Amateur Radio Association, this is Bill Stearns, NE4RD.

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE RADIO KIND

PAUL/ANCHOR: Do you believe in Unidentified Flying Objects? Well whether you do or you don't, as long as you believe in amateur radio, you'll be interested in our final story this week, which comes to us from Kent Peterson KCØDGY.

KENT: It's no secret that Pete Guldan KDØSQJ and his fellow club members in

the Midwest have been seeing flying saucers for quite some time. The flying discs hover with great tenacity on the landing page of the website for NØFOO, which identifies the Minnesota group by its formal club name: Hams of Insignificant Value.

Ah, but the amateurs' true worth is actually as great as the universe itself - and thanks to these hams, visitors in a nearby Wisconsin village are about to have a close encounter of the radio kind.

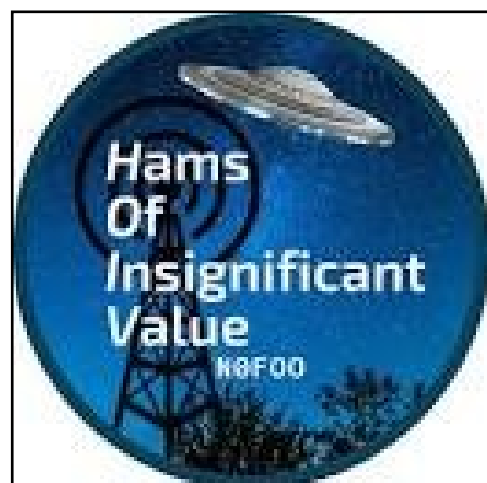
The village of Elmwood considers itself the UFO capital of the state, based on residents' claims of having had so many sightings over the years. It is therefore not insignificant that for the first time in the festival's 44-year history, there will be sightings of amateur radio operators calling QRZ on the HF bands. They bring a message of peace: "Take me to your feedline." The club will have operators on the air with the club callsign NØFOO from July 28th to the 30th.

Let's face it: Having radio amateurs at a UFO festival is proof that there is indeed intelligent life on this planet.

Be listening, from anywhere on earth - or even beyond.

This is Kent Peterson KCØDGY.

(PETE GULDAN, KDØSQJ)



Blast from the past

Blast from the Past' is the section of Oxtales where we reflect on what the club and its members were doing in years gone by. Members are also encouraged to send in items relating to club members or club activities in previous years.

This month's blast is taken from the 2013 July issues of Oxtales. The club had 74 members. Henry VK2ZHE was President and Secretary, Bruce VK2HOT Vice President and Keith VKFKJA (SK) Treasurer.

The main club's activities mentioned in the months Oxtales was a report on the field day that had been held in June at the Tacking Point Surf Club. Extracts of the field day report follows.

' . . . The ORARC 2013 Field Day was a great success over Saturday and Sunday the 8th and 9th of the June 2013 over the Queen's Birthday long weekend. Not only was the Field Day a great success, it was definitely our best Field Day for many years, both from an enjoyment point of view, and from a financial point of view, as evidenced by the smile on the face of Treasurer Keith Anderson VK2FKJA.

The many visitors who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and many reported that they had already booked accommodation for next year. As well as the regular contingent from Sydney and environs, this year a large Newcastle group from the Westlakes Amateur Radio Club made the journey to Port Macquarie. The attendance list also includes home towns such as Umina Beach, Woy Woy, Lemon Tree Passage, Booral, Forster, Taree, Wingham, Coopernook, Moorland, Kempsey, Grassy Head, Bellingen, Thora, Coffs Harbour, Dorrigo, Lismore, Brisbane, Guyra, Werris Creek, Canberra, and Lord Howe Island. When added to the many locals from the Hastings and Camden Haven valleys it is clear that the Field Day is indeed very popular.'

' . . . The Field Day certainly broke all records for the amount of disposals equipment. The photographs of the inside of the hall tell the story! The Neil Sandford VK2EI deceased estate items weighed in at over 2 tons! The Alan Nutt VK2GD deceased estate items weighed in somewhat less but still occupied several tables. By the time members and visitors added their disposals items the hall was a sea of tables making it a bargain

hunter's Mecca. Just as well the perimeter tables were quarantined for the traders to add their goods! Many people reported sensory overload! There was still room for the Homebrew display which was also sported a record number of entries.

' . . . The Field Day dinner at the Port Macquarie Golf Club at Tacking Point was extremely popular with a record 75 people enjoying good food and a pleasant social evening. The numbers exceed the booking that ORARC had made but the Golf Club rose to the occasion by bringing out extra tables for another party booking so that the Field Day diners could all sit together. Next year we will book more tables!'

' . . . Fox hunting has a strong tradition at the annual Field Days and this year competition was even more intense than usual. The transmitters hidden by foxes Brian Linsley VK2BI and John Winchester VK2F-GAA sent the hounds searching in perfect conditions.

Congratulations to Fox Hunt champion Jeff Pages VK2BYY of Umina Beach, and to Runner-up champion Chris Williams VK2YMW of Hornsby. Top hunters Craig VK2ZCM, Chris VK2YMW, Ashley VK2XSO and Jeff VK2BYY all have their names engraved on the perpetual trophy as Fox Hunt Champion in previous years and are always keen to again see their names engraved on those little shields added to the trophy each year.

This year Jeff VK2BYY prevailed. Keen hunters Gerald Hill VK2IO and Rodney Sommerville VK2TI who won individual hunts this year are just as keen to see their names on those little shields! We can expect some spirited competition at next year's Field Day.'

David Newey VK2DFN (SK) told the rest of the Field Day in the series of photographs that follows.



The venue Tacking Point Surf Club provided a great setting and look at that view.

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Equipment from the Past

AWA CR-6B Communications Receiver



The AWA Receiver CR-6B was built for the then Department of Civil Aviation (Australia) to provide ground monitoring of in-flight HF aircraft communications during the late 1950's and early 1960's.

The receiver was derived from the AWA CR-6A receiver which was a general coverage 2 to 30 MHz receiver. The receiver would normally be operated under crystal control for in-flight HF operations.

The CR-6B had an additional long wave band of 200 to 540 kHz which the Department of Civil Aviation used to monitor the operation of the non-directional aircraft beacons in the 200 - 500 kc range.

The receiver represents the end of the valve era and the circuit features approaches radically different from earlier receivers. The radio had service-replaceable modules for ease of service and was made at AWA factories in Australia.

The radio was an all valve set incorporating a superhet, double and triple conversion design as was most communications equipment of that era. The valve line up was:

- 6BY7 RF Amp
- 6BA6/6BA6/6AU6 IF Amp (100kc input)
- 6AJ8 1st Mixer/Osc(O/P 1.8 mc/s to Block Filter)
- AM Detector - Solid State
- 6AU6 Crystal Calibrator 500kc

- 12AU7 Xtal Oscillator (6 xtal positions)
- CW/SSB Detector 12AU7 Product Detector
- 6AU6 Audio Amplifier
- 6AJ8 2nd Mixer (1700 kc)
- 6AU6 Beat Frequency Oscillator
- 6AQ5 Audio Output (L/S & 600 ohm line output).

The power supply consists of a full wave bridge providing 150vdc for HT and 6.3v for heaters. A VR tube (OB2) provided power for the noise limiter and variable oscillator.

There were 6 wavebands : 0.2 - 0.54 Mc/s
2.0 - 5.0 M/cs
5.0 - 10 Mc/s
10 - 15 Mc/s
15 - 20 Mc/s
20 - 25 Mc/s.

The CR-6B was prone to suffer from oscillator drift when using manual tuning. However the Crystal control solved this problem. Although sensitivity was not high on the Non-Directional Aircraft Beacon band this was not a problem for DCA as the band was only needed to check the performance of local beacons.

The following were the instructions on using the set in manual mode. This required a bit more effort than tuning modern sets today.

'The CR6 has a black V shaped dial bezel that holds the main controls. Along the top is the almost linear frequency scale.

When you change bands with the right hand side TUNING RANGE MC/S knob, this scale rotates away, and a new one is shown .

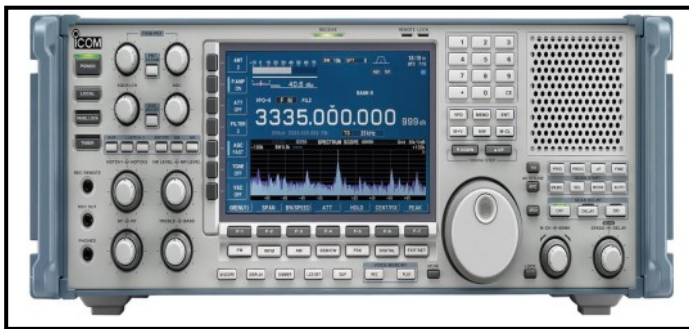
The scale can be moved a little with a DIAL CORRECTOR knob. Turn the OFF/STD.BY/ON/CAL switch to CAL which switches on the crystal calibrator. Tune to a harmonic at a megacycle marking, and set the scale exactly with the DIAL CORRECTOR knob. On the left hand side is the S meter, and below this is the ANT. TRIMMER knob, used to tune the aerial. At the bottom of the V is the main TUNING knob, with a semi circular logging scale above it' .

Acknowledgements: www.radiomuseum.org/

New Radio Communications Equipment Today

It is interesting to compare radio communications equipment from the past with those of today. Below is an overview of an ICOM—R9500 Professional Communications Receiver.

ICOM R9500



The following is from a promotional release.

‘Professional ICOM IC-R9500 Communications Receivers offer professional results! These high-end communications receivers provide professional-grade build, operation and functionality for wideband monitoring, signal detection, spectrum analysis, recording received signals, and more. ICOM IC-R9500 communications receivers cover SSB, AM, FM (WFM), CW, and FSK modes. They achieve amazing receiver performance by using a D-MOS FET array in the first mixer and an excellent IMD roofing filter. Five independent roofing filters improve your selectivity, the oven control crystal oscillator unit provides frequency stability, and the digital IF filter (except for FM and WFM) allows you to adjust the filter characteristics, while the digital twin passband tuning narrows and shifts the IF passband to eliminate unwanted signals. These IC-R9500 incorporate two independent, 32-bit DSP units--one for receiver functions and one for the spectrum scope--so the radio responds instantly to your changes! Great spectrum analysis is yours with the large 7 in. wide display with a wide viewing angle. The multi-function spectrum scope is displayed in vivid color! Four different

spectrum modes are available to monitor signal strength and characteristics. Other offerings from the spectrum scope include peak search and hold functions, mini scope, and three levels of attenuation. ICOM IC-R9500 communications receivers offer a DSP controlled noise blanker, 2-point manual notch filters to help eliminate interference, synchronous AM detection, and built-in FSK demodulator and decoders. With their 1,220 memory channels and 10 VFO channels, you can store, group, name, and bank all of your favorite frequencies, modes, filter widths, and tuning steps for the future. ICOM IC-R9500 communications receivers bring you top-of-the-line operation and professional performance with a multitude of functions to make worldwide listening efficient and truly pleasurable! Specs for superb IC-R9500 performance: * 0.005-3335MHz wideband coverage * +40dBm third order intercept point * 109 dB dynamic range at 14.1 MHz * ± 0.05 ppm high-frequency stability * ± 3 dB accuracy signal meter Additional outstanding functions and features include: * SSB/CW/AM mode auto tuning functions * Preamplifiers and attenuators * 1/4 tuning step function and dial click function * CW-R (reverse) mode * Audio peak filter * Automatic gain control * Voice squelch control * Input overload protection (HF bands only) * Optional P25 digital mode reception * CTCSS and DTCS tone squelch * Dial lock and panel lock functions Note: For additional information, please look at the files under the "Documentation" tab. Whether you want the ultimate receiver to pair with a quality transmitter, the ultimate SWL receiver, a unique professional monitor or the best in receiving test equipment, one of these Professional ICOM IC-R9500 Communications Receivers from DX Engineering will fill any bill!’

The proposed cost in Australian dollars is:

AUD \$20,557.64

Editors note. It will be interesting to review this equipment for Oxtales in 10 years time!

Silent Key – Craig Shubrick Martin VK2CSM ex VK2ZCM (SK)



It is with great sadness that we report that long time esteemed ORARC member Craig Shubrick Martin VK2CSM ex VK2ZCM of Sancrox near Wauchope passed away peacefully unexpectedly on Thursday the 22nd of June 2023, aged 66 years.

Craig was born on the 6th of April 1957 and grew up as one of three children on the family orchard at Glenorie in Sydney. He was always interested in mechanical things and learned to drive the ride on mower at an early age. Beekeeping was another of his interests.

In 1975 the family moved to Sancrox and Craig attended Wauchope High School. He was very pleased when he left school to take up an apprenticeship at Wauchope Motors.

He joined the Hastings Sporting Car Club. His 850 Mini Clubman and exploits are well remembered. He tried his hand as a navigator in 1979 but decided that he much preferred to be behind the wheel.

Craig married Jenny in 1980. They had three

children. Tricia was the eldest followed by twins Adam and Christina.

After leaving Wauchope Motors Craig spent time in earthmoving operating a backhoe until he obtained his dream job as leading hand with JLG in Port Macquarie where they designed and built scissor lifts. He revelled in drawing the schematics of the electrical and hydraulic systems, some of which he did in his own time at home. It is testament to the quality of his work that the schematics were incorporated in the manuals for the lifts.

When JLG began to simply assemble the scissor lifts from imported kits Craig decided that this wasn't for him and he did quarry work until he went to work for JR Richards. He began as a driver but found his niche as a weighbridge operator in the Kingfisher Road facility. It was during this period that Craig had an opportunity cast his trained eye over the cornucopia of all manner of incoming recyclable items. He enjoyed keeping his hand in by driving the heavy machinery on the site when things needed to be done. Sadly, Craig suffered renal failure in 2011 which eventually led to an early retirement and a regime of dialysis.

Craig obtained his Amateur Radio Licence through the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club. He was first licenced as VK2HBM but upgraded to become VK2ZCM in 2002. In more recent times when regulations were amended so that Advanced licence holders could take out any available callsign he changed his callsign to VK2CSM which gave him the initials of his full name, Craig Shubrick Martin. He was very proud to have his long-standing family name "Shubrick" as his middle name. In his usual inquiring way he extensively researched the history of the Shubrick name in his family tree.

Craig was a very keen foxhunter and was well known for his success in these events at both the

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Port Macquarie Field Days and at the Urunga Easter Conventions for many decades until illness made it difficult for him to compete.



Craig discussing tactics with fellow fox hunters at Urunga Easter Convention.



Craig VK2ZCM receives a fox hunting trophy at Urunga Easter Convention

At Urunga he particularly enjoyed meeting up with the very keen ARDF Championship level Victorian teams that came with Brian Ackerly VK3YNG each year to compete. Sadly, the Victorian teams always went to the ARDF championships at Mount Gambier on the June Long Weekends so they couldn't come to the ORARC Field Days.

Although he was unable to be present, Craig as usual provided his home built 2 metre foxes which were used at this year's Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Field Day.

At the Port Macquarie Field Days Craig was Foxhunt Champion in 2001 as VK2HBM, then as VK2ZCM he was Foxhunt Champion in 2003, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2012 and 2016. In the mobile foxhunts Craig always

teamed up with his wife Jenny who would drive while Craig sniffed out the fox. As can be seen from his seven shields on the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Foxhunt Champion Perpetual Trophy, Craig and Jenny were a formidable team.



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As well as foxhunting, Craig was a prolific home brewer who built all manner of things including direction-finding equipment and antennas. He mastered the art of making his own circuit boards to a very high standard. He was very proficient in computing and programmed his own PICs amongst other things. Craig regularly took part in HF radio contests. The Trans-Tasman 160 metre contest was one that he particularly enjoyed.

As his children were growing up Craig became heavily involved in building and setting up stage lighting and video recording of school dances. His expertise and resourcefulness were well recognised.

Craig was an innovator who saw everything as a challenge to be mastered. Amongst the many recollections mentioned with fondness during the eulogies at Craig's funeral were the bandsaw for cutting up a pig that was being butchered and the extraordinary lengths that he went to in manufacturing replacement cornice in a profile that was no longer available when he was doing house renovation.

Craig's renal failure slowed him down in his latter years but he remained as active as he could. We all learned from him that four stroke ride-on mowers can be very simply run on gas. As with all his innovations he was very happy to share this secret.

Craig was devoted to his family. He supported them in all their activities and was always very proud of their achievements.

Craig was an active participant in ORARC activities. In amongst the photos he is shown with foxhunting equipment beside the ORARC Communications caravan at John Downes Park in Port Macquarie on the 10th of January 2015.



Note his ORARC cap and name badge in the photo of him dressed to march in the 2015 ANZAC Day march standing in the doorway of the ORARC Communications Caravan which had been set up as a display in the Wauchope RSL carpark. He is very proudly wearing his late father's medals.



Craig will be sadly missed and will always be remembered for his infectious enthusiasm for Amateur Radio.

The very well attended funeral for Craig was held in the Innes Gardens Memorial Chapel on Friday the 30th of June 2023.

Vale Craig Shubrick Martin VK2CSM

Thank you to Larry Lindsay VK2CLL and Adam Martin for advising of Craig's passing.

Submitted by Henry Lundell, VK2ZHE on behalf of the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc.



Silent key

Trevor Niven VK5NC (SK) (22nd January 1945 -17th February 2023)

Born in Mt Gambier, Trevor married Beth Thompson in 1969 and had two children - David and Lisa.

At school he was one of a group that built crystal sets to listen to the local broadcast station, but when one of them heard Stuart Milowick (VK5MS) on 14 MHz talking to an overseas amateur this began Trevor's interest in amateur radio.

Al Rechner, VK5ZCR/VK5EK (SK), also an amateur in Mt Gambier, suggested that they could build themselves a 288 MHz transceiver, using a 6J6 as the main oscillator /super regenerative receiver as a learning exercise to become a radio amateur. Trevor took his portable transceiver to Mt Lofty near Adelaide where he had many contacts from high up in the hills.

Trevor gained his VK5ZTN licence in May 1965 and was active on 144MHz.

Being a Fitter and Turner by trade, these skills proved valuable for his interest in the higher frequencies as many of the amplifiers required cavities and special metal work in their construction.

Trevor helped Ron Wilkinson with the construction of his 20 foot dish, made his 1296 MHz dual mode feed and later a two tube cavity amplifier using two 3cx110 (7289a) triode valves.

In 1973 Trevor passed the morse examination at 14 WPM and became VK5NC.

Trevor was very active on the 50, 144, 432 and 1296 MHz bands and in the following years won the coveted Ross Hull contest in 1987-88 and again in 1988-89. His interests expanded higher in frequency to the 3.4, 5.7, 10 GHz bands with portable equipment during the 1990s. He was an active participant with several significant

DX Expeditions which resulted in numerous distance records. These national and state distance records although now superseded, will be remembered by his colleagues. Later, 24GHz was added and he was a joint winner of the Ron Wilkinson Achievement Award in 2001 for his design, construction and operation of equipment for 24 GHz.

He was one of the people who helped Chris Skeer (VK5MC) with the EME challenge over the years, firstly with the rhombic on 144 MHz and later parabolic dishes. Whenever he could find time, Trevor was a frequent visitor to Chris's shack for many EME activity events.

Trevor was a Foundation Member of the South East Radio Group. He held various positions on the committee and was appointed a Life Member in 1989. He was recently made a patron of the South East Radio Group.

Trevor moved to Perth, Western Australia in March 2020 to be closer to his family who had been living in the West for some time.



Trevor Niven VK5NC with the Ross Hull Trophy.

Vale Trevor Niven VK5ZTN/VK5NC (SK).

Acknowledgement: Chris Skeer VK5MC South East Radio Group, South Australia.